Standards of Public Land Health
Evaluation of 63056 DEAD MAN CANYON Allotment
[01/09/2010]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63056 DEAD MAN CANYON. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63056-IDSU-A118	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Deadman Canyon Allotment, 63056. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot locations within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following; ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 363 acres of public land. The study is located on a Limestone Hills CP-3 ecological site. A majority of the indicators fell in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category. Two of the indicators were rated as "Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description; Gullies and Invasive Species. The specialist noted that a gully had developed along the road with areas unprotected by vegetation, and that the area also had potential for juniper invasion under the Invasive Species category. here are no riparian areas on the public land within this allotment.

Recommendations: With the majority of the indicators falling in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains. It is also recommended the area be monitored to evaluate the potential for a land treatment of juniper and to complete brush control if warranted.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet			
SITE 63056-IDSU-A118			
Legal Land Desc	NWNW 4 0100S 0180E Meridian 23	Acreage	395
Ecosite	070CY107NM LIMESTONE HILLS CP	Photo Taken	Y
Watershed	13060008110 DEADMAN		
Observers	TRAUTNER, COLBERT	Observation Date	01/09/2010
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN	Soil Var/Taxad	
Soil Map Unit	014	Soil Taxon Name	DEAMA
Texture Class	NM632 CBV-L	Soil Phase	DEAMA-ROC
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY COBBLY LOAM		
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation	
Disturbances and Animal Use:			

Part 2. Attributes and Indicators

		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:	None present					
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:	None present					
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X

Comments:	Bare ground approximately 5%, good rock cover, in keeping with the site description.					
S H	Gullies			X		
Comments:	One gully along the road, with areas unprotected by vegetation.					
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:	Litter staying in place					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Increase in amount of juniper, but still good grass and shrub cover.					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	Increase in juniper, lots of grama, bluestems.					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:	Currently about 25%, ecological site = 6-10%					
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	Estimated at 800 lb/acre.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Potential for invasion of juniper.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:	Good structure for hiding, nesting & thermal cover.					
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:	specialists saw game birds, Barbary sheep and mule deer.					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable.					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable.					

Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	1	1	8
H	Hydrologic	0	0	1	2	8
B	Biotic	0	0	1	2	8

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	1	9
Hydrologic		0	1	10
Biotic		0	1	10

Site Notes: Species on site: hairy grama, blue grama, black grama, beargrass (sachuista), yucca, sideoats grama, bluestem, hedgehog cactus, dropseeds, muhlys, cholla, juniper, oak species. Site looks very good, with good species diversity, stable soils, very little livestock use apparent.

Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63056 DEAD MAN CANYON

The Record of Decision (ROD) of the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Site Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within the Dead Man Canyon allotment, 63056, meets the (1) Upland Sites Standard and (2) Biotic communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard. There are no public land riparian areas on this allotment; therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman	02/22/2010
Acting Assistant Field Manager	Date